

CLAIM LISTING

Claims 1 - 16 (Canceled)

17. (New) A method including:

- (a) placing an initial comminuted meat product in contact with ammonia to produce an intermediate meat product; and
- (b) applying mechanical action to the intermediate meat product.

18. (New) The method of claim 17 wherein the step of applying mechanical action to the intermediate meat product includes forcing the intermediate meat product through a conduit.

19. (New) The method of claim 17 wherein the step of applying mechanical action to the intermediate meat product includes applying a primary mechanical action by agitating the intermediate meat product in a vessel.

20. (New) The method of claim 19 further including the step of applying a vacuum to the intermediate meat product in the vessel as the primary mechanical action is applied.

21. (New) The method of claim 19 wherein the step of applying mechanical action to the intermediate meat product includes applying a secondary mechanical action to the

1 intermediate meat product by forcing the intermediate meat product through a conduit
2 before or after applying the primary mechanical action.
3

4 22. (New) The method of claim 17 wherein the step of placing the initial comminuted meat
5 product in contact with ammonia comprises applying ammonia gas or aqueous ammonia
6 to the initial comminuted meat product.
7

8 23. (New) A method including:

9 (a) placing a comminuted meat product in contact with ammonia; and

10 (b) forcing the comminuted meat product through a conduit after placing the
11 comminuted meat product in contact with ammonia.
12

13 24. (New) The method of claim 23 further including applying a primary mechanical action to
14 the comminuted meat product after placing the comminuted meat product in contact with
15 ammonia, the primary mechanical action being applied by agitating the comminuted meat
16 product in a vessel.
17

18 25. (New) The method of claim 24 further including the step of applying a vacuum to the
19 comminuted meat product in the vessel as the primary mechanical action is applied.
20

1 26. (New) The method of claim 24 further including applying a secondary mechanical action
2 to the comminuted meat product by forcing the comminuted meat product through an
3 additional conduit after applying the primary mechanical action.

4
5 27. (New) The method of claim 23 wherein the step of placing the comminuted meat product
6 in contact with ammonia comprises applying ammonia gas or aqueous ammonia to the
7 comminuted meat product.

8
9 28. (New) A method including:

10 (a) placing ground meat in contact with ammonia; and

11 (b) applying mechanical action to the ground meat after placing the ground meat in
12 contact with ammonia.

13
14 29. (New) The method of claim 28 wherein the step of applying mechanical action to the
15 ground meat includes forcing the ground meat through a conduit.

16
17 30. (New) The method of claim 28 wherein the step of applying mechanical action to the
18 ground meat includes applying a primary mechanical action by agitating the ground meat
19 in a vessel.

1 31. (New) The method of claim 30 further including the step of applying a vacuum to the
2 ground meat in the vessel as the primary mechanical action is applied.

3
4 32. (New) The method of claim 30 wherein the step of applying mechanical action to the
5 ground meat includes applying a secondary mechanical action to the ground meat by
6 forcing the ground meat through a conduit after placing the ground meat in contact with
7 ammonia and before or after applying the primary mechanical action, .

8
9 33. (New) The method of claim 28 wherein the step of placing the ground meat in contact
10 with ammonia comprises applying ammonia gas or aqueous ammonia to the ground meat.